

**What is Claimed is:**

1        1. A notebook computer with an input/output (I/O) physical user interface  
2 comprising:

3              a base containing a keyboard for said notebook computer, wherein said  
4              base has an extended portion beyond said keyboard creating a widened  
5              keyboard base;

6              a widened display, said widened display having a widened I/O display  
7              area corresponding to said widened keyboard base, said widened  
8              display having a width substantially equal to a width of said widened  
9              keyboard base;

10             an I/O device area disposed within said extended portion of said  
11             widened keyboard base; and

12             an interface signal connection means mounted within said I/O device  
13             area, said interface signal connection means operable to couple signals  
14             from said notebook computer to an I/O device.

- 1       2.     The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said I/O device area is recessed  
2           below a surface of said I/O device area, said recessed I/O device area operable to  
3           receive said I/O device.
- 1       3.     The notebook computer of claim 2, wherein said interface signal connection  
2           means is disposed within said recessed I/O device area.
- 1       4.     The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein an interface connection interposer  
2           is disposed between said interface signal connection means and said I/O device.
- 1       5.     The notebook computer of claim 4, wherein said interface connection  
2           interposer is disposed within said recessed I/O device area.
- 1       6.     The notebook computer of claim 4, wherein said interface connection  
2           interposer is operable to compensate for both mechanical and signal routing  
3           differences between said universal connection means, said recessed I/O area and said  
4           I/O device.
- 1       7.     The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said widened I/O display area is  
2           used to display operational data relative to operation of said I/O device when said I/O  
3           device is sending or receiving signals to said notebook computer.
- 1       8.     The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said notebook computer is  
2           operable to execute first communication software instructions, said first  
3           communication software instructions controlling communication between said  
4           notebook computer and said I/O device.

- 1       9. The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is operable to  
2 execute second communication software instructions, said second communication  
3 software instructions controlling communication between said notebook computer  
4 and said I/O device.
- 1       10. The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said I/O device has functionality  
2 wholly separate from any communication signaling or connection with said notebook  
3 computer.

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1       11. A method of interfacing a I/O device to a notebook computer, comprising the  
2 steps of:

3                 providing said notebook computer with a widened display and a  
4                 widened keyboard base, said widened keyboard base having an I/O  
5                 device area;

6                 providing a signal connection means within said I/O device area;

7                 coupling signals from said I/O device to I/O circuitry in said notebook  
8                 computer, said I/O circuitry operable to couple signals from said I/O  
9                 device to a central processing unit (CPU) in said notebook computer;

10                 activating communication software, said communication software  
11                 operable to control communication between said CPU and said I/O  
12                 device; and

13                 activating display software, said display software operable to execute  
14                 instructions directing the display of input or output data relevant to  
15                 said I/O device in a widened portion of said widened display.

1       12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of operating said  
2       notebook computer and said I/O device together in response to user commands  
3       entered via said notebook computer or via said I/O device.

1       13. The method of claim 11, wherein said widened display has a width  
2       substantially equal to a width of said widened keyboard base.

1       14. The method of claim 11, wherein said I/O device has functionality wholly  
2       separate from any communication signaling or connection with said notebook  
3       computer.